

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-10

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CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 IO-10 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01

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DRAFTED BY OSD:RCLARKE

APPROVED BY ACDA/IR:ACFLOYD

NSC:MHIGGINS

JCS:RMCCANN

OSD/ISA:LMICHAEL

PM/DCA:CFLOWERREE

EUR/RPM:GCHRISTIANSON

C:WSHINN

ACDA/IR:THIRSCHFELD

S/S-O:PKJOHNSON

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TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T STATE 177923

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR

SUBJECT:MBFR: RELEASE OF TANK DATA

REF: NATO 3694

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1. IF NEGOTIATIONS IN VIENNA LEAD TO DISCUSSIONS OF LIMITS

ON US TANKS, AND PROVIDING THE EAST IS WILLING TO EXCHANGE LIKE DATA ON WP TANKS, IT MAY BECOME NECESSARY TO USE DATA ON US TANK LEVELS WITH EAST. WE BELIEVE THAT ANY LIMIT ON US TANKS SHOULD BE ON TOTAL TANK HOLDINGS (SINCE WE WISH THE LIMIT ON SOVIET TANKS TO BE OF THIS FORM). THIS WOULD IMPLY THAT ANY DATA RELEASED BE RELATED TO THE TOTAL STRENGTH OF US MAIN BATTLE TANKS IN AREA (APART FROM UNCLASSIFIED UNIT TOE FIGURES FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES).

2. IN ADDITION, OUR REQUIREMENT TO ALLOW RESTORATION OF US TANK STOCKS TO AUTHORIZED LEVELS MIGHT REQUIRE EVENTUAL RELEASE OF DATA ON THIS HIGHER LEVEL AS WELL, IN ORDER TO CLARIFY THE SIZE OF THE INCREASE WE HAD IN MIND.

3. WE PRESENTLY SEE NO REQUIREMENT FOR RELEASE OF BREAK-DOWNS ON TANKS NOT IN ACTIVE UNITS AND WE WANT TO CLEARLY AVOID SUGGESTING THAT THE COMPOSITION OF US TANK STOCKS IS A SUBJECT FOR NEGOTIATION. THEREFORE, WE WOULD NOT SUPPORT

RELEASE OF SUCH DATA UNLESS A SIGNIFICANT AND CLEARER TACTICAL REQUIREMENT APPEARS.

4. IN ANY CASE, THESE ISSUES NEED NOT BE DECIDED NOW. ANY SUCH DISCUSSION OF DATA WOULD OCCUR AT A LATER STAGE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, AND WOULD BE SUBJECT TO TACTICAL REQUIREMENTS THAT CANNOT NOW BE PREDICTED. INGERSOLL

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